



UN-HABITAT

**2023 Third Session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
28 – 30 November 2023**

Agenda item 3: Reports of the Chairs of the ad hoc working group of the
Executive Board

Statement by

H.E Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of
Brazil to UN-Habitat, Chair of the ad hoc working group on the Stakeholder
Engagement Policy and Chair of the Executive Board

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to provide an update on the UN-Habitat Assembly Decision 2/4 –
in which Member States “... decided to request the Executive Board, on an
exceptional basis, to continue its work to develop a stakeholder engagement
policy and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by
the Assembly at its resumed regular second session”.

As you are aware, since the departure of the former Chair of the Ad hoc
working group in April 2023, I have been serving as interim Chair of the Ad
hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy in my capacity as Chair
of the Executive Board.

The Ad hoc working group held its 22nd meeting on 2 November 2023 to
consider the leadership of the Working Group, make general comments on the
draft stakeholder engagement policy and discuss the next steps. This was the
first meeting of the group since the Second Session of the UN-Habitat
Assembly.

By that time the Secretariat had not received any voluntary nominations for Co-
Chairs of the Working Group. As Chair, I explained to Member States that
Brazil will not be able to continue to Chair the Ad hoc working group on
stakeholder engagement policy. It was therefore important to extend the

deadline for receipt of nominations by 24 November 2023 in time for discussion of a possible Decision on 27 November 2023.

I am somewhat disappointed that as at yesterday 27 November 2023, no nominations had been received towards the leadership of the ad hoc working group. It is my sincere hope that before the end of this session, delegations will kindly consider this matter and offer themselves to lead this working group.

At the meeting on 2 November 2023 the Secretariat recapped the status of the stakeholder engagement policy and what remains to be done based on the report of the former Chair of the Ad hoc working group submitted to the first session of the Executive Board on 27 March 2023.

The Secretariat also shared the lessons learned during preparations of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, especially accreditation and participation of local authorities.

For the first time in two decades a member state objected to the participation of two organisations attending the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly as observers. This is partly the more reason why a stakeholder engagement policy is needed to clarify the course of action in a matter like this.

I trust that member states through the Ad hoc working group on the stakeholder engagement policy will resume the second reading and recommend an agreed document for adoption by the Executive Board at its First Session of 2024, despite the challenges.